

## Real or Fantasy: *The Lion and the Mouse*

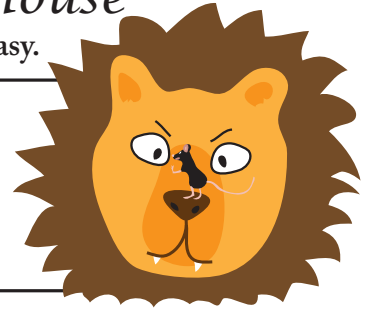
Fiction stories include elements of both realism and fantasy.

**Realism** is when things can really happen in life.

Ex: The frog hopped near the princess.

**Fantasy** is when things are fake and can't happen in life.

Ex: The frog sang to the princess.



**Directions:** Read the fable below. As you read, think about the elements of the story that are realistic and those that are fantasy.

### The Lion and the Mouse

A Lion lay asleep in the forest, his great head resting on his paws. A timid little Mouse came upon him unexpectedly, and in her fright and haste to get away, ran across the Lion's nose. Roused from his nap, the Lion laid his huge paw angrily on the tiny creature to kill her.

"Spare me!" begged the poor Mouse. "Please let me go and some day I will surely repay you."

The Lion was much amused to think that a Mouse could ever help him. But he was generous and finally let the Mouse go.

Some days later, while stalking his prey in the forest, the Lion was caught in the toils of a hunter's net. Unable to free himself, he filled the forest with his angry roaring. The Mouse knew the voice and quickly found the Lion struggling in the net. Running to one of the great ropes that bound him, she gnawed it until it parted, and soon the Lion was free.

"You laughed when I said I would repay you," said the Mouse. "Now you see that even a Mouse can help a Lion."

**Directions:** Look for examples of realism and fantasy in the fable and record these details in the chart below. An example has been done for you.

<i>Realism</i> Things that can happen in life	<i>Fantasy</i> Things that are fake and can't happen in life
When the lion was unable to free himself, he roared loudly and angrily.	The Lion laughed at the Mouse.